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Department of State TELEGRAM

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INFO OPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,NSA 02,L 03,INR 07,P 04,
CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAH 02,IO 21,/CDA 17,AID 30,SAL 01,
RSR 01,/178 W

P 141150Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4595
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3790
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2163
CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

UNCLAS SAIGON 3063

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

VIETNAM PRESS (ENGLISH EDITION) OF AUGUST 13 CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY:
QUOTE PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY, TODAY STATED THAT IF HIS SLATE IS ELECTED, THERE WILL BE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIETNAM.

IN AN INTERVIEW GRANTED TO NEWSMEN ON THE OCCASION OF A LAND OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT, PRIME MINISTER KY ALSO RECALLED THAT LT. GEN.

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NGUYEN VAN THIEU HAD SAID THAT IF HIS SLATE WINS THE ELECTION HE WOULD THINK OF ONE-WEEK BOMBING LULL IN NORTH VIET-NAM. HE ADDED THAT IN THE DIRECTORY CHAIRMAN'S OPINION A ONE-WEEK BOMBING TRUCE WOULD POSSIBLY INDUCE HANOI TO THINK OVER THE PEACE PROBLEMS.

PRIME MINISTER KY FURTHER SAID THAT, "WE THINK WE WOULD THUS

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DEMONSTRATE OUR GOOD WILL TOWARD HANOI BY MEANS OF SUCH A BOMBING SUSPENSION."

ASKED WHETHER HE MAY DROP HIS CANDIDACY TO RETURN TO THE ARMED FORCES, PRIME MINISTER KY SAID THAT A CHANGE AT THE TIME BEING WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION AND HE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH SABOTAGING THE ELECTION. "FRANKLY", PRIME MINISTER KY ADDED, "I WISH I COULD REJOIN THE MILITARY RANKS."

PRIME MINISTER KY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BE CONSTANTLY AWAY FROM SAIGON DURING THE NEXT WEEK EXCEPT FOR THURSDAY WHEN HE WILL ATTEND A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN COMPANY WITH US AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND GEN. WILLIAM WESTMORELAND.

ABOUT THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF US CONGRESSMEN REQUESTED PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO ADOPT A SPECIFIC POSITION REGARDING THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION IN VIETNAM, PREMIER KY SAID: "THIS ELECTION IS A MATTER OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, NOT OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON." END QUOTE

COMMENT: REFERENCE TO JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IS IN ERROR AND WE BELIEVE KY MEANT A BUSINESS MEETING WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SLATED THIS WEEK WITH AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND KOMER AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND.
BUNKER

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